

The Clarion

November 2018

First UMC is a welcoming, accepting, caring and diverse Christian community committed to teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people through faith-based worship, exciting programs and outreach ministry.

Ponderings from your Pastor

Dear Friends,

Is it November already? The leaves are falling, and the days and nights are getting shorter. It is a beautiful time of the year, and it is a time when we begin to think about Christmas. Well, we are planning some wonderful and memorable Christmas services too. We will have TWO Christmas Eve services this year, @ 5 pm and 7 pm. The 5 pm service will be relaxed and family oriented, we will sing the traditional songs, but with a contemporary flare, and every family who attends will receive a gift that will be a treasure for years to come. We will end the service with a modern twist on the candle lighting, but it will be a special and memorable time for all.

At 7 pm, we will have our Traditional Candle Lighting Service, with all those special elements that help us experience the peace and joy of the season.

I want to thank the Elder Care Team and everyone else who helped put on a great luncheon and entertainment for our **Over 80 Celebration**. We had 31 in attendance and had a great time! I know there were many who were unable to attend, but please know we hold them in our hearts.

The Elder Care Team continues to meet, visit, and serve communion monthly to our homebound. Presently, we have 16 homebound and many who are semi-homebound and still others that prefer a phone call or a card. Please know that we do our best to serve these needs, but at times it is an overwhelming task. We need more volunteers, like you, to come and be a part of this much needed ministry in our church. Our next meeting is on November 27 at 10 am in the Library. I hope you will come and be a part of this growing ministry.

As you read this, the **Guatemalan Mission Team** will be returning and settling back into their American Blessed life. For many, it will be an easy time, for others they will see with new eyes the stark differences of our country compared to a 3rd world nation. I ask that you continue to be in prayer for our team as they adjust.

There are lots of things happening in the church that many of you are not aware of, here are a few; of which I continue to work on daily:

1. Designing and implementing a Guest follow up and tracking guest experience, this process needs volunteers to implement.
2. Finding ways to connect with members who miss more than two Sundays. Again, there is a need for volunteers in order to implement.
3. Creating a consistent and excellent worship experience.
4. Building a relationship with the MC Middle and High School. Working with community officials on ways to partner.
5. Working to meet the needs of our homeless students, supply drives and delivery.

It has been a busy time, but remember in all "Give Thanks to God"!

B-blessed, Rev. Maureen





First UMC of Mount Clemens
10am Worship
57 SB Gratiot
586.468.6464
www.mountclemensumc.org

**NOVEMBER
CEREAL
DRIVE**

Through the month of November we will collect Cereal to donate to Father Bob's Food Pantry. Any size and any type will be greatly appreciated!! We will bless the cereal **November 25, Thanksgiving Sunday.**

*All Donations
Will Be Given To
Father Bob's
Food Pantry*

**Family Spotlight
of the
Month**



Nancy and Fred Hathaway came to First UMC of Mt. Clemens in 1994 after moving to Clinton Twp. from Eastpointe. They were married at Mt. Hope Methodist Church in Detroit in January 1959. They visited three different Methodist churches before making the decision to transfer membership. Once they came to First Church the decision was easy. They loved the friendliness of everyone here at First and have made many dear friendships.

They both attended Denby High School in Detroit and lived on the east side growing up but didn't meet until both joined the ski club at the Northeast YMCA in Detroit about 1957.

The Hathaways have three children, Dan who works at Roy O'Brien Ford in St. Clair Shores, Scott who works in the printing industry and Julie, a physical therapist who works for Custom Home Care out of Royal Oak. All our children are now in their fifties. We also have three grand children, Leah Clifton, who is attending LeTourneau University, as a senior, in Longview, Texas, studying welding engineering. Nathan, Leah's brother, is a sophomore at U of D Mercy studying to become a physician's assistant, and Sean Hathaway, son of Scott and Lynn, plays soccer as keeper for Romeo High School. All of the Hathaways have a love for the out of doors and have enjoyed sports such as fishing, hunting, skiing, boating, sailing, cross country skiing, basketball, kyaking, canoeing and hiking. These days we all enjoy spending time in the U.P. at our cabin in the woods at Hulbert, Michigan. We have been blessed with good health through the years and have visited England, Scotland, Netherlands, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Estonia, Russia, France, Korea, Japan, Viet Nam, Singapore and China. Fred's employment at Chevrolet Gear and Axle for 34 years and our blessings received day in and day out have provided us with an abundant life. For this we are very thankful.

**OLDE TYME
BARBERSHOP
QUARTET**

**Sunday, November 18th
10am at First UMC
of Mount Clemens**



Hands with Detroit



On October 6, Eleven of our First United Methodist Church folks gathered to participate in Hands With Detroit, the Greater Detroit Districts Mission Day. We traveled to Metropolitan UMC in Detroit where we had a rousing opening with prayer and music and then headed off to our worksite at Arts and Scraps. There we helped make art packets by cutting up portions of 4 pallet boxes full of discarded air bag material. The work was monotonous but somehow we made it fun and had a wonderful serving this important non-profit and living into the United Methodist connection.

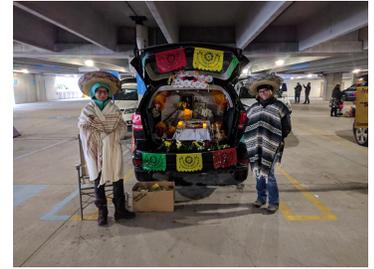
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

What a glorious day we had at Westview Orchards!! The weather was beautiful and the orchard was teeming with folks. We had fun getting to know one another and eating apples together. A great day! Our next Young Adult outing will be, **Saturday evening December 1.** We will go to Rochester to enjoy the lights on Main Street. Plans for this outing are still in process, but mark your calendars and plan to join us as we enjoy the lights of Christmas together. See you then!!



Trunk-or-Treat

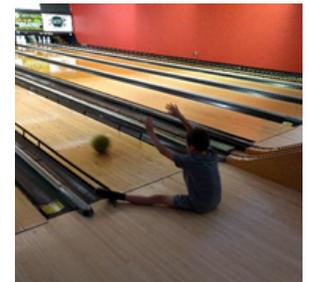
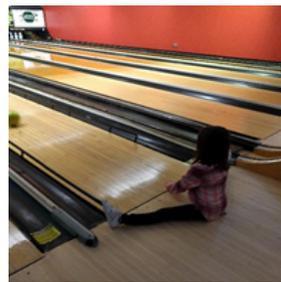
3 cars filled with 8 folks headed to the Mount Clemens Parking Structure to participate in the Optimist Club's Annual Trunk or Treat. We handed out a ton of candy along with invitations to our worship services and Messy Church. It was a cold but happy day as we greeted all who came with shouts of "Trick or Treat" or "Happy Halloween".



TWEENERS

The first of the Tweener group was held on September 30 with a trip to Rec Bowl in Mount Clemens. This group of older elementary students had fun eating pizza and bowling together.

Our next event will be December 30 from 3:00 – 5:00 at the church! All 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are invited and encouraged to bring a friend. Come ring in the New Year with us with games, food, and a small mission project. The perfect way to begin a new year together! Please RSVP to Rev. Alicea if you plan to attend.



Youth & Fellowship Updates



YOUTH GROUP NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

Leaf Raking Service Day – Sunday, November 4, from 12:00 until we finish, probably 3:00. Bring your work clothes to church along with rakes and lawn bags as we gather to help some of our members rake their leaves. If you are bringing a friend or two to help out, please let Rev. Alicea know so enough Pizza will be ordered. We will have lunch before we go. Parents will be needed to drive for this mission day.

Joint Youth Group – Sunday, November 18, Time TBA. We will gather and travel to Roseville Trinity UMC for a joint youth group event. Let Rev. Alicea know if you are willing to drive to this event.

Christmas Cookie Sale-

Mark your calendars and plan to take home some Christmas goodies baked and decorated by our Youth Group! On **Sunday, December 16**, after church in Wesley Hall, our Youth group will have Christmas Goodies for sale for you your family! Mostly cookies with a smattering of other baked goodies will be available for purchase by donation. All proceeds to go toward our Mission Trip next summer to Motown Missions in Detroit.

The Wesleyans will gather in **Wesley Hall at noon on Saturday, November 17th** for a sack lunch. Following lunch will be the planning session for 2019 activities. Bring your new ideas and things you would like to do again. All are welcome to join us and perhaps suggest new activities!

-Ken Fowler

Book Club will meet on **November 13, at 10am in the Library.** We will be reading *The Girls*, by Emma Cline. All are welcome!!

Youth Group

From a trip to the Corn Maze to a combined 4 church youth group, September and October were busy months for our youth group. At the corn maze we picked sunflowers, ate doughnuts, drank cider, and solved a mystery in the maze! On October 21 we traveled to Warren and had an evening of fun and making friends when we gathered with Warren First UMC, Eastpointe Immanuel UMC, and Roseville Trinity UMC. These three churches meet on the third Sunday of each month as one large youth group and have invited us to join them. It was a good evening of meeting new people and even coming away with new Snapchat contacts!



Christmas Pageant rehearsal is **Saturday, November 10 from 9:00 – 11:00 in the Sanctuary.** Please plan to attend as we will begin getting fitted for costumes and blocking the different scenes.

Mark your calendars for **December 16th at 10am**, as we seek to tell the greatest story ever told!!



November Birthdays

Barbara Clay	11/01
Evan Maertens	11/01
Judy Spalla	11/02
Nicole Calvert	11/07
Sara Colah	11/07
JJ Eldridge	11/08
Cynthia Donahue	11/11
Robert Kruse	11/11
Michael Zdravkovski	11/11
Darrell Miller	11/12
Caiden Parker	11/12
Dean Benson	11/13
Doris Breitreuz	11/13
Avery Calvert	11/14
Kenneth Sanborn	11/14
Joyce Wells	11/14
Darcie West	11/15
Jenny Ellis	11/16
Melanie Sugierski	11/17
Sawyer Lefurgey	11/18
Manda Moore	11/18
Jordan Olszewski	11/18
Stephanie Lovalvo	11/20
Jessica Lefurgey	11/21
Wendy Jones	11/22
Joseph Hiestand	11/22
Nancy Hathaway	11/25
Ken Fowler	11/30



November Anniversaries

Keith & Mary Philo	11/04
Dan & Karen Zdravkovski	11/04
Jeff & Tracy Beebe	11/06
Robert & Agatha Pingley	11/07
Nicholas & Jessica Lefurgey	11/08
Keith & Susan Rosso	11/08
Jim & Linda Willneff	11/26



From "Booing" to potato prints, from dinner to praising God, Messy Church has it all. This family fun Christ-oriented once-a-month evening is for EVERYONE to enjoy! We make dinner for you, we plan the evening for you, all you need to do is show up. Our next Messy Church is schedule for **Wednesday November 14 from 6:00 - 7:30 and it's Pizza Night!** Our theme for the evening is "I'm the Light of the World"! Come, join us, and invite your friends and neighbors! We can't wait to see you at Messy Church!



Jeri and I would like to thank everyone for all the food that was given, prayers, and cards that were sent during her surgery. Our church family have always been there for support and comfort.

*Blessings,
Bill and Jeri Wiza*

*Dear Friends,
Thank you for the generous gift during Pastor Appreciation Month. You are such a generous and wonderful congregation please know how much I appreciate you all so very much too.*

*Thank you again,
Rev. Maureen*

*Thank you so much to all who gave to our We Care Ministry!! Together, we delivered **25 Packages!!** Blessings, Joyce Wells*

To my church, Thank You!! And with great appreciation for a very nice Elder Luncheon. A special thank you to our ministers, Maureen and Alicea, to those who prepared the lunch, Jocelyn, Marge, Lois and Julie, to the sing-along leader, Tom, and his assistant, Lois, and the lovely solo sung by Wendy. It was a special treat for everyone there. We all received Holy Communion when we had finished lunch. What a very prayer-full way to leave a lovely gathering. God bless all those who made it possible.

With grace and peace, Kathryn Sommers



Hanging of the Greens (Decorating for Advent)

We will be decorating the church for the advent season on **Saturday, December 1, at 10am**. There will be a pizza lunch provided. This will be a change from our usual Sunday after church activity. There will be jobs available for all ages from “fluffing” bows and garlands to hanging wreaths outdoors. Or, you can just come and sit and give us moral support. I hope you will join us as we prepare for the celebration of our Lord’s birth.

~Ellen Arntz

A response from one of our Members who attended the **Living Faithfully Study Group-**

"I am a widow of a 49.11 year marriage and I still miss my high school sweetheart/husband. I only had one experience with the LGBT community in my younger years and it was at my former church. As a mother of young children I began volunteering in the Nursery and after some time was asked to help a “professional” teacher in a Team Teaching position. It was a good position and I sincerely thought I would be a teacher when I began college once the youngest child went to school. At a planning session at my team leader’s home, I met her friend and they both became good friends of Don and I. I recognized the affectionate relationship of a committed partnership and it was one “until death do us part.”

Patricia Lyall Hill, 10-22-2018"

Women With Faith

I would like to comment on our October program by the Holiday Earth Angels - we were all very impressed by what they do. They are given the names of 10 military families that could use help and brighten their holiday by bringing them a Christmas tree and decorating them - they also bring them a large basket of nonperishable items and they have helped a single military mom furnish her home. If anyone would like to volunteer or donate you can contact them at holidayearthangels@gmail.com.

~Jocelyn Prevost



We will be hosting the *Warming Center* again this year beginning on **Sunday, December 30th through January 5th**. A sign-up sheet will be posted shortly with plenty of opportunities to volunteer. Also, there is a box in Wesley Hall to collect socks and underwear for our guests. Please consider volunteering or donating as you are able for this important ministry. See Dan McLatcher or Sandy Paul with any questions. Thank you good and faithful servants!

Endowment Committee Report

For the quarter ending September 30th, this Fund generated \$3,256.50 for the Trustees to use for building maintenance and improvements. The total for the first 3 quarters of 2018 is \$8,818.32. Contributions to the Endowment Fund are really helping.

Ken Fowler, Committee Chairman

The Trustees would like to ask the Congregation when there is a maintenance issue that needs to be addressed, please write it in the red folders at Sunday service or use one of the gray forms located in the Trustees Box located in the lobby across from the church office door.

Bill Wiza, Trustee Chair



Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of October, 2018

	<i>Amount</i>		
	<i>Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
October 7	\$7,768.00	\$6,500.00	112
October 14	\$3,426.00	\$6,500.00	131
October 21	\$5,491.00	\$6,500.00	114
October 28	\$3,846.00	\$6,500.00	96

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Mike Foy, Dwain Read, Joe Hiestand, Jeri Wiza, Kelsey & Mike and Baby Jack Bridson, Nancy Donahue, Wesley Ballard, Doris Breitreuz, Debbie Tchakerian, Denette Ballard

Our Friends and Family

Patricia Williams, Andrea Hart, Betty Fridley, Jane Tralka, Lorraine Santo, Betty Fridley, Darell Campau

Our Homebound

Myrna Born, Marilyn Jean Borow, Dawn Brass, Shirley Champion, Irene Cloud, Polly Darling, Marjie Eckhout, Mike Foy, Karen Loos, Murray Shelson, Fred Thielk, Rosalie Tinkham, Patsy Weagel, Gladys Wiggins, Bernie Weideman

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Adam Donahue, Tami Morgan, Sean Kiernan, Tony Kiernan, Brian Hill

College Students

Brianna Akers, Sarah Akers, Michaela Baker, Emily Beebe, Hannah Berg, Annica Brocker, Nathan Buchanan, Leah Clifton, Nathan Clifton, Matthew Durham, Draven Forbes, Jaryd Forbes, Jordan Gould, Josh Gould, Kyle Hill, Nina Hill, Ashley Krynski, Stephanie Lysekawa, Tighe Maclean, Nick Nielsen, Jordan Olszewski, Sydney Olszewski, Hope Reyna, Mitchell Salisbury, Kyle Sieben, Amy Beth Simon, Jordan Spratt, Tina Tinkham, Jake Williams, Morgan Wiza

Guatemala Mission Team 2018!!

Contact Information



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